

Guard, I personally understand the sacrifices these service members make and the burdens placed on their families during deployments. I know our entire Nation shares in my gratitude for their service.

When disaster strikes, the South Dakota National Guard comes to the aid of our State and Nation. Throughout its history, the men and women of our Guard have battled floods, fires, blizzards, tornadoes, and a host of other disasters. Last year, when flooding from the Missouri River threatened communities along its banks, guardsmen were there to shore up levees, pile sandbags, and help citizens prepare for the worst. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated states along the gulf coast, units from the South Dakota National Guard were deployed to help the region recover.

The Guard personnel from the Mount Rushmore State represent the best South Dakota has to offer. They have consistently served our State and country with resolve, compassion, and honor. On the occasion of the South Dakota Guard's 150th anniversary observance, please join me in commending Guard personnel for their great service, both to the citizens of South Dakota as well as to the Nation. I applaud their willingness to answer the call to duty.●

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA KOIRTYOHANN

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the work of Barbara Koirtyohann, a friend and long-time Hallmark executive who is retiring this year. Barbara has worked at Hallmark for 39 consecutive years, and has been active in the Kansas City community.

Barbara is from the Kansas City area and still calls Kansas City home. She is currently the Director of Public Affairs for Hallmark Cards and she is the founding member of the Greeting Card Association's Postal Affairs Committee. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that any postal reforms have minimum negative impact on the "citizen mailer."

During her time away from the office Barbara has been a solid member of Kansas City's civic community. She has been active with the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves as the chairman of their Public Policy Council. In addition, Barbara is a current board member at Hope House, a shelter for battered women and their children. She has also served on the boards of Children's Mercy Hospital and Missouri Citizens for the Arts. Kansas City is a better place because of Barbara Koirtyohann.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Barbara Koirtyohann on her retirement.●

REMEMBERING FREDERICK LADD POTTER

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the late Frederick Ladd Potter, who passed away on February 18, 2012. I wish to pay my respects to Fred's family and to note the important role he played in assisting me and my colleagues in developing and passing the Renewable Fuels Standard, RFS, as part of the Energy Policy Act, EPAct, of 2005.

Fred Potter began his lifelong commitment to ethanol and clean-burning transportation fuels in 1979 when he helped to open the Office of Alcohol Fuels within the U.S. Department of Energy. In 1981 he started Information Resources Inc., IRI, a private communications business, to promulgate information by publishing newsletters and holding press conferences. During this time, IRI played a major support role in removing the lead from gasoline, to be replaced by oxygenates which met the octane needs of gasoline.

In 1991 Fred worked out a merger with Hart Energy in forming Hart/IRI to greatly expand the publications business to include a wider range of newsletters, studies, research efforts, and conferences. The International Fuel Quality Center was established, to be followed by the Global Biofuels Center, all with the goal of improving fuel quality worldwide and reducing harmful emissions from the automotive sector.

Because of the pioneering work Fred accomplished in developing biofuel policy, Congress was able to put into place the first renewable fuel volume mandate for the United States. As required under the EPAct, the original RFS Program, RFS1, required 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel to be blended into gasoline by 2012.

Fred's contribution to achieving this foothold in our nation's comprehensive energy policy is well recognized by those of us who have been supportive of ethanol and biofuels throughout our careers.

Due to these achievements in 2005, Congress was able to expand the RFS program under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. RFS2 laid the foundation for achieving a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and imported petroleum, as well as the development and expansion of our Nation's renewable fuels sector with the established goal of 36 billion gallons of first-generation and advanced biofuels by 2022. I can think of no better remembrance for Fred than knowing his fundamental work was essential toward providing our Nation's transportation sector with clean-burning, high-octane fuels.

In addition to his work in renewable fuels, Fred Potter will be remembered for his unflagging service to America, his amazing cadre of friends, and his great and loving family. I, therefore, join with Fred's friends in the Senate in honoring his achievements, his memory, and his devoted family.●

RECOGNIZING JEN'S PLACE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, our Nation's small business owners know what it means to sacrifice every day for a dream. The risks, the fears, and the uncertainty are all familiar to those brave enough to strike out on their own and open a small business. Our country's entrepreneurs routinely prove that through dedication, hard work, and spirit, any vision can be realized. Few know the challenges of opening a small business like Jen Burton, who has overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to build from scratch one of Brunswick, Maine's most popular restaurants. I rise today to recognize Jen and her outstanding achievements at Jen's Place.

Jen Burton understands the value of hard work. An inspiration and an example of the can-do spirit of Maine, Jen worked her way from welfare recipient to entrepreneur and restaurateur. As a single mother, she balances the personal demands of family with the professional challenges of running a restaurant. Jen's Place is now so popular that customers happily wait in a line that stretches out the door and around the side of the building. It is clear that her popularity is no passing trend. Jen's Place is a favorite of locals, students, and visitors, with its mouthwatering reputation constantly bringing hungry new patrons to its tables.

Jen spent many years working in restaurants before opening Jen's Place. From those experiences, she learned the right and wrong way to run a restaurant. She learned the priorities and details that were important to master in her own business. Jen devoted months to perfecting her menu items, focusing on quality and taste rather than cost efficiency. She also values supporting other Maine small businesses and buys many of her ingredients locally. Her menu features dishes named after frequent patrons, and the eclectic decor is reminiscent of a family's cozy kitchen. The relaxed hometown feel and delicious comfort food is the essence of Jen's Place and is a product of Jen's tireless effort, perseverance, and culinary know-how.

From humble beginnings to successful entrepreneur and local favorite, Jen Burton embodies the American dream. When the restaurant landscape seems dominated by fast-food and chain restaurants, it is heartening to see the success of restaurants like Jen's Place. Her passion and commitment to quality set her apart. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Jen and best wishes for her continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO TYLER STENBERG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tyler Stenberg, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Tyler is a graduate of Mobridge-Pollock High School in Mobridge, SD. Currently, he is attending The University